

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 RSR-01 /145 W

----- 114503

R 050411 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1215

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7869

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MILI VC

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP 4 MAY 73

HEREWITH REPEAT AMCONSUL BIEN HOA MSG 0110 FYI AND ACTION QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0110

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 4 MAY 1973

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MILI VC

1. NVA/ VC ACTIVITY IN MR3 CONTINUED AT A REDUCED LEVEL DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 4 MAY. THERE WERE 15 COMMUNIST INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF FIVE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), SIX GROUND CONTACTS AND FOUR MINE INCIDENTS. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 60 ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR FIRE; NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WERE REPORTED. NVA/ VC USING LOUDSPEAKERS ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE THE RANGERS TO DISOBEY THE CAMP COMMANDER AND SURRENDER. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, THE 319 TH RF BATTALION RECEIVED 70 ROUNDS OF MIXED 82 MM AND 61 MM MORTAR FIRE FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK 7 KMS NORTH OF DUC HUE DISTRICT TOWN. RESULTS WER FIVE FRIENDLY WOUNDED, ONE MISSING AND FIVE COMMUNISTS KILLED. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, THE 49 TH ARVN RECON COMPANY RECEIVED 26 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED 82 MM MORTAR AND B-40 ROCKET FIRE 13 KMS

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SOUTHEAST OF PHU KHUONG DISTRICT TOWN WOULDING SEVEN ARVN SOLDIERS.

MINOR GROUND CONTACTS AND ABF WERE REPORTED IN BINH DUONG, HAU NGHIA, LONG KHANH AND TAY NINH PROVINCES. TOTAL CASUALTIES FROMT OTHERWISE BE MORE LAX IN REQUIRING SAFEGUARDS WILL NOT THEREBY OBTAIN A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OVER THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING TO FULFILL THE OBJECTIVES OF ARTICLE III 2.

2. SUCH GUIDELINES WERE WORKED OUT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET UNION, BUT SEVERAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THEY WILL NOT ADHERE TO THE GUIDELINES UNLESS THE SOVIETS ALSO ACCEPT THEM.

3. IT TOOK THE SOVIETS A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME TO DECIDE THAT ANY CONNECTION WITH THIS EXERCISE WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. FINALLY THEY PROPOSED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH U. S. MISSION, DURING WHICH THEY COUNTERED WITH A MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE LIST OF ITEMS OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, EXPORTS OF WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE CONDITIONED ON SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT THE ZANGGER COMMITTEE HAD EARLIER CONSIDERED BUT COULD NOT REACH A CONSENSUS TO INCLUDE. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, A FAR MORE MODEST LIST OF PROPOSED SOVIET ADDITIONS WAS ARRIVED AT, WHICH WAS REPORTED TO THE ZANGGER COMMITTEE AT ITS MOST RECENT MEETING IN MARCH.

4. THESE MODIFIED SOVIET SUGGESTIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CAPITALS OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES, INCLUDING THE ADDRESSEES HEREOF, WITH A VIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 085097

TO GIVING THEIR REACTIONS AT A MEETING TO BE HELD IN VIENNA ON MAY 16. WE CONSIDER THIS A CRUCIAL MEETING, SINCE REJECTION OF THE MODIFIED SOVIET SUGGESTIONS COULD IMPERIL THE ENTIRE ZANGGER COMMITTEE EFFORT. WE ARE APPREHENSIVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER MAY BE OVERLY INFLUENCED BY TECHNICAL-COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS WHO MAY NOT GIVE DUE WEIGHT TO THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING SOVIET ACQUIESCENCE IN THE GUIDELINES.

5. ACTION ADDRESSES SHOULD APPROACH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO URGE THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSED SOVIET SUGGESTIONS, AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MAY 16 MEETING TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING SOVIET

CONCURRENCE IN THIS EFFORT, WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY REQUIRE
COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE IN SUBSTANCE OF THE ALREADY WATERED
DOWN SOVIET SUGGESTIONS. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT
BRINGING THE SOVIETS ALONG APPEARS ESSENTIAL TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE COMMITTEE'S EXERCISE, IN WHICH THE
PARTICIPANTS HAVE A SERIOUS STAKE, AND THAT SOME PRICE
WILL HAVE TO BE PAID FOR BRINGING THE SOVIETS ALONG
WHEN THEY WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE EARLY STAGES OF THE
COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS. ADDRESSES MAY DRAW ON BACK-
GROUND DISCUSSION ABOVE TO EXTENT IT APPEARS HELPFUL.
RUSH

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